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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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**COUNTRY** Rumania

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**Western Broadcasts**

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most Rumanians liked news broadcasts best. In January 1954 King Michael had spoken on BBC or RFE. This broadcast aroused great interest as people were glad to hear of the King's activities. The humor programs of BBC and Radio Paris were also very popular. There was an excellent humorous broadcast from Paris by someone named Professor La Fontaine but, as Paris broadcast only

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50X1 on one frequency, the program was hard to hear. Radio Paris tended  
 50X1 to give too many cultural programs for most people's tastes. A BBC  
 50X1 program on new inventions, recently-developed technical processes,  
 50X1 newly-discovered medicines [redacted] was very popular  
 50X1 in Rumania. [redacted] some Rumanians thought  
 50X1 it was an illegal station in Rumania.

The New Course

3. [redacted] There were more  
 50X1 goods in shops but stocks were quickly sold out and people did  
 50X1 not have enough money to buy what they needed [redacted] the  
 economic and political situation would continue to be very difficult  
 and there would be no hope of improvement as long as the Communist  
 Regime existed.

Foreign Relations

4. People in Rumania were very pleased with the Bermuda declaration  
 of EISENHOWER and CHURCHILL regarding the non-acceptance of the  
 Soviet suppression of liberties in Satellite countries. On the  
 other hand, the people tended to become worried and discouraged with  
 the U.S. and Britain as months and years went by without any prospect  
 of liberation. There was considerable fear of war but there was  
 a general belief that even war would be better than an indefinite  
 continuation of their present slavery. The Rumanian people needed  
 to be convinced that the situation would improve. They feared that  
 war might be postponed so long, the Communists would succeed in  
 indoctrinating the children, particularly those now below 14 years  
 of age.

5. [redacted]  
 50X1 [redacted] He had no views on the Berlin and  
 50X1 the changes introduced in the USSR  
 50X1 by MALENKOV as necessary concessions to keep the population under  
 50X1 control and [redacted] there was more political free-  
 dom in the Soviet Union than in Rumania. The standard of living  
 in Rumania was higher than that of the Soviet Union, as shown by  
 the fact that women in Rumania were not obliged to do the heavy  
 work done by women in the USSR.

6. [redacted]  
 50X1 [redacted] the U.S. was much too weak in its dealings with  
 50X1 the Soviets; the West made too many concessions to the Communists.  
 50X1 [redacted] when the Communists abused the West on the radio, the  
 50X1 West should reply in equally strong language. [redacted] Western  
 50X1 treatment of China as an example of the West's weakness. People  
 in Rumania thought that the Chinese Communist government was as  
 much a satellite of Moscow as their own government. Rumanians also  
 knew that Communist China was not in the United Nations, but felt  
 the West had already given it partial recognition by admitting it to  
 some of the international conferences.

Internal Political Situation

7. [redacted]  
 50X1 [redacted] The news of the Rumanian Government's release  
 50X1 of the two sons of the Rumanian petroleum engineer, now living in  
 50X1 the U.S., was generally interpreted [redacted] as an  
 50X1 encouraging admission of weakness by the Rumanian Government and a  
 50X1 capitulation to U.S. pressure [redacted]

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50X1 [redacted] the news of the recent release of a considerable number of Greeks would be interpreted the same way. The return to Rumania of a few Jews from Israel was interpreted as proof of poor character or weak intellect of those Rumanian Jews rather than as evidence that life in Israel and the West was worse than life in Rumania.

50X1 8. [redacted] officers of the armed forces, the police, and the security services were groups most favorable to Communism. Although members of these groups were well-paid and given many privileges, the convinced Communists probably numbered less than half of the total.

50X1 [redacted] only 15 or 20% of the Party members were believers in Communism. In the country at large [redacted] less than five per cent were supporters of the present regime. People had many different motives for joining the Party; economic pressure was the most common. Doctors and lawyers joined in order to continue their professions.

50X1 [redacted]

50X1 [redacted]

50X1 [redacted]

50X1 [redacted] In such circumstances, it was surprising not now many, but now few people, were willing to accept Party membership.

### SOVROMTRANSPORT

9. [redacted]

50X1 [redacted] SOVROMTRANSPORT [redacted] was run by unskilled people who were ignorant of the ordinary commercial principles. Much money was wasted trying to operate old, worn-out ships when it would have been more economical to replace them with efficient new vessels.

50X1 [redacted] the management had tried to dictate to ships' masters the amount of cargo which could be carried, even though the masters had warned that it was unsafe to attempt to carry so much; however, Source thought the company made money because it paid such very low wages.

10. In spring 1954, the Soviet ship-registration and licensing organization in Rumania, Registrul Sovietic, which formerly had made it difficult to issue papers certifying that a ship was in satisfactory condition, issued papers for the 55-year-old PLEHANOV. Rumanians interpreted this to mean that the Soviets were preparing to sell their interest in SOVROMTRANSPORT.

### Emigre Activities

11. [redacted]

50X1 [redacted] General, RADESCU, was in a leading position among Rumanian emigres [redacted] the emigres were not organized but had possibly made preparations to organize in anti-communist military units and that the Rumanian people would like to know more about the activities of the exiles.

50X1 12. Merchant marine personnel were rarely arrested aboard ship or while in SOVROMTRANSPORT offices. A much-used way of arresting suspect sailors was to call them up for refresher training in the military reserve and then to arrest them after they had told their friends they were going into service. When released, they were usually forced to find other work in the interior of the country. There was a constant turnover in the personnel of the small Rumanian merchant marine. At least five ship's captains were in prison. Charges of espionage were placed but few sailors thought their colleagues who are arrested had actually been engaged in espionage.

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Western Help for Escapees

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[redacted] the U.S. had given money to help escapees from Eastern Europe, [redacted] thought that help was internationally given and that the U.K. had also contributed. Sailors were afraid to jump ship in France because they feared French Communist dockers might help to force them back into Communist control.

Sabotage and Resistance

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[redacted] no cases of sabotage in recent years within the merchant marine or in Rumania but heard while riding a train to Bucharest in June 1954 a conversation in which references were made to current partisan activities somewhere in the mountains of Rumania; [redacted] doubted these reports as true. The only form of sabotage or resistance [redacted] perhaps now be practiced was the issuance of unworkable or uneconomic instructions by persons who, though ostensibly Communists, were actually opposed to the regime. In this category [redacted] the orders for repair to ships in the ship yards at Constanta which should have been given to foreign yards which did the work cheaper and better.

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